Local Life Moscow - PDF Guide

Quick intro

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Upcoming events in Moscow

Unrealized Future
- From Jan 1st 1936 until Jan 19th 2038, on Vozdvizhenka str., 5/25

More on www.local-life.com/moscow/events ›

Best rated restaurants in Moscow

- Scandinavia Palashevskiy Malyy Pereulok, 7
- Noah's Ark Malyy Ivanovskiy Pereulok, 9
- Cafe Pushkin blv. Tverskoy 26a
- Hard Rock Cafe ul. Arbat 44
- Tinkoff per. Protochny 11
- Night Flight ul. Tverskaya 17
- Moo Moo ul. Arbat 45/23
- Bosco Cafe Red Square 3

More on www.local-life.com/moscow/restaurants ›

Most popular pubs & clubs in Moscow

- Dolls ul. Krasnaya Presnya 23b
- Night Flight ul. Tverskaya 17
- Mio pl. Kaluzhskaya 1
- Piramida ul. Tverskaya 18a
- Soho Rooms Savvinskaya Nabereznaya 12|8
- Fabrique Kosmodamianskaja 2
- The Chinese Pilot proyezd Lubyansky 25
- Bely Medved Prospect Mira, 116a
More on www.local-life.com/moscow/pubs ›

**Best hotels in Moscow**

- Napoleon Hostel
  - Malyy Zlatoustinskiy Pereulok, 2
- Hotel Ukraina
  - Kutuzovsky prospekt 2/1
- Sweet Moscow Hostel
  - ul. Arbat 51
- Hotel Metropol
  - Teatralny proezd 1/4

More on www.local-life.com/moscow/hotels ›

**Essential services in Moscow**

- Moscow Fast Dating Club
  - Old town
- Expat Salon
  - Malyy Patriarshiy Pereulok, 3
- US Dental Care
  - ul. Bolshaya Dmitrovka 7/5
- International SOS
  - per. Grokholsky 31

More on www.local-life.com/moscow/services ›

**Need some culture?**

- Tretyakov Gallery
  - per. Lavrushinskiy 10
- Red Square
  - Red Square
- Pushkin House-Museum
  - ul. Arbat 53
- Cosmonaut Museum
  - Prospekt Mira 111

More on www.local-life.com/moscow/culture ›
Travel tips

Here are a few things to bear in mind for your trip to Moscow. First of all, be prepared! Moscow is not the easiest place to be a tourist and if you don't take a few simple precautions it can be a miserable experience. The first thing to bear in mind is the weather. If you're going outside the months of May to September you're going to need winter clothing, and if you're going in the heart of winter you're going to need a lot of it! Leaving your hotel without a hat, scarf, gloves and warm, waterproof shoes (with at least two thick pairs of socks) is foolhardy - if not downright dangerous!

In Russia foreigners are required to always carry their passports with them. Russian police have been known in the past for targeting tourists to check their documents. If yours are all in order they shouldn't bother you, however they may try and fine you anyway (in order to pocket the cash!). Carry the phone number of your embassy with you and threaten to call them and have someone meet you down the police station if necessary. With Moscow keen to improve its reputation as a tourist destination hopefully such practices will soon become extinct.

One thing you must do in order to comply with the insane bureaucracy of the Russian visa regulations is to register your visa within 3 working days of arrival at the OVIR. If you are staying in a half-decent hotel or hostel they will do this for you. Otherwise take a walk to ul. Pokrovka 42, and get it out of the way. The office is open 9-6pm, but closes between 1-2pm for lunch.

Other things to bear in mind are that you can pay the world or next to nothing for pretty much everything in Moscow, so if your pockets aren't as deep as Roman Abramovich's then hunt around. Something you will struggle to avoid paying is special 'foreigner' prices for common expenditures like museum entry and sometimes even hotel rooms. This is perfectly legal (until recently foreigners had to pay more for plane and train fares too!) so there's no point getting in a huff!

Don't forget to post your own Moscow travel tips at the Guardian's Been There travel guide!

Above: What car does Crystal Waters drive? ...Lada-dee, Lada-da!
Below: Worth the prison sentence? Landing a plane in Red Square
Getting around

By metro
9 million Muscovites can't be wrong - the Metro is the best way for getting around Moscow, especially when it affords you a respite from the Russian winter. Tickets are a snip at 19 roubles, and the organised amongst you can make a further saving by buying in bulk (you can buy tickets for up to 70 journeys). Plan your journey by taking a look at our map.

By taxi
Official taxis can cost a bomb in Moscow, and after taking a ride in one you wouldn't be surprised to hear that your driver was called Boris Korruptikov. There's little point in insisting on using the meter as they can fix the amount per km. Instead look like you are prepared to take the bus and negotiate a price - plus have the right change or you will end up leaving a big tip. Alternatively wave down a comrade for a lift - see our page on citizen cabs!

By bus
Buses, trolleybuses and mini-buses offer a slightly less comfortable way of getting around town, and should be used when the metro won't take you where you need to go. Expect plenty of argy-bargy to get in, but once inside admire the reliability with which money changes hands as those at the back pass their roubles to the front for a ticket.

By tram
There are no trams in the epicentre of Moscow and they tend to be useful only for joining the outer districts of town with the metro system. You can buy a ticket on board or at a kiosk.

By car
Renting a car isn't prohibitively expensive in Moscow, however the city's ring roads can make the most experienced driver break out into a cold sweat. Apart from dodgy manoeuvres from your fellow drivers, just heading in the right direction can be quite a headache...

By bus

By tram